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College of Osteopathic Medicine

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Making a Difference: Frederick Lippman

Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost

NSU Health Professions Division

*By Scott Colton
Director of Education Communications*

Over the past four decades, Fred Lippman, B.Sc., R.Ph. has enjoyed success in several arenas - as a community pharmacist, civic leader, state representative, health care educator, and NSU Health Professions Division administrator. The roles may have changed over the years, but one aspect that has never waned is his commitment to creating progressive programs and championing policies that can benefit all sectors of society.

During the past 15 years, Mr. Lippman has been a pivotal force behind the formation and monumental growth of Nova Southeastern University's Health Professions Division. By working closely with Chancellor Morton Terry and other dedicated members of the HPD team, Mr. Lippman has helped build a flourishing and widely renowned academic institution that serves as a standard-bearer in health care education.

In his current position as executive vice chancellor and provost - a dual role he has held since January 1998 -- Mr. Lippman has the challenging task of overseeing a complex web of HPD activities. "In the parlance of the

Continued on page 10

TERRY BUILDING

NEWS BRIEFS



COM OUTLOOK

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Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097;
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bachelor's, master's, educational specialist and
doctoral degrees.

On August 3, the NSU-COM chapter of the Student Osteopathic Medical Association (SOMA) sponsored an evening of food, fun, and festivity called Osteoblast 2000 at Dania Beach. The event, which featured a Hawaiian theme, served as a way to welcome the incoming M-1 class. After enjoying a sumptuous meal, the students played horseshoes, participated in a volleyball tournament, and had the opportunity to bond with the M-2's in a lighthearted but competitive tug of war contest. Attendees also had a chance to win an OPP table, which was donated by the Undergraduate American Academy of Osteopathy.

Kenneth Johnson, D.O., director of NSU's Women's and Children's Center, recently was appointed by Governor Jeb Bush to serve on the newly formed Women and Heart Disease Task Force. The medical unit's purpose is to identify where public awareness and education as well as research and coordination efforts regarding women and heart disease are lacking and require improvement. The task force will prepare recommendations to establish research regarding why women suffer more severe first heart attacks than men do and the reasons women die more often from heart attacks.

In July, Paula Anderson-Worts, D.O., assistant professor in the Department of Family Medicine, received her master of public health degree from the College of Allied Health. She also earned the prestigious Chancellor's Award, which is presented to an individual who has demonstrated "the characteristics of a fine public health professional, scholarship, leadership,

integrity, humanity, and loyalty to the profession."



Paula Anderson-Worts, D.O.

In August, Elisa Ginter, D.O., assistant professor in the Department of Family Medicine, was appointed as associate director of Clinical Practicum I.

Dean Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O. Pharm.D., was recently appointed to the American Osteopathic Association's Council on International Osteopathic Medical Education and Affairs.

Elaine Wallace, D.O., who serves as chair of the Department of Osteopathic Principles and Practices, was prominently featured in *The D.O.* magazine's July 2000 cover story, which addressed the topic "Body and Soul: Spirituality in Healthcare."

Rosebud Foster, Ed.D., AHEC special projects consultant, was recently appointed to Governor Jeb Bush's Gold Seal Panel on Excellence in Long Term Care.

In August, Governor Jeb Bush appointed Joseph Stasio, D.O., director of the Family Medicine Residency Program, to the 35-member Florida Cancer Control and Research Advisory Council. Over the next three years, Dr. Stasio and the other council members will advise the governor, the legislature, and various

state agencies on imperative issues relating to cancer control and research.



Joseph Stasio, D.O.

Alan Morrison, D.O., assistant professor in the Department of General Internal Medicine, has maintained a busy extracurricular schedule in recent months. Dr. Morrison's activity agenda has included:

- Acting as faculty advisor for the newly formed NSU Student Internal Medicine Interest Group.
- Publishing an article in the August edition of the *Journal of Adolescent Health* entitled "Vocal Cord Dysfunction."
- Appearing on *Your Health Care* -- telecast on Miami station WLRN -- to discuss the topic "Back to School Physicals and Adolescent Health."
- Serving as a guest on the NSU-HPD cable program *Dateline Health* to address the topic "Adolescent Health Care."
- Sharing information with the Pembroke Lakes Mall Walkers at the Pembroke Lakes Mall Atrium in July regarding the subject "Internal Medicine."



Alan Morrison, D.O.

In September, Margaret Wilkinson, Ph.D. was tapped to serve as the associate director of primary care research and development. To accommodate her new responsibilities, Dr. Wilkinson will no longer be functioning as NSU-COM's director of clinical curriculum; however, she will continue to act as director of graduate medical education and associate director of the Consortium for Excellence in Medical Education (CEME).



Margaret Wilkinson, Ph.D.

Joseph DeGaetano, D.O. was selected to replace Dr. Wilkinson as director of clinical curriculum. Dr. DeGaetano will be working with the Office of Medical Education to help coordinate the third and fourth-year clinical programs. He also will serve as a consultant in postgraduate education for the CEME program while continuing to fulfill his prior clinical and educational responsibilities within the Department of Family Medicine.



Joseph DeGaetano, D.O.

The Department of Family Medicine's Division of Rural Medicine has been accorded separate status and will now be known as the

Department of Rural Medicine, with James Howell, M.D. continuing to serve as departmental chair.

Due to the increased size of NSU-COM's student base, The Office of Osteopathic Student Services has hired Mary Smith-Allegro to assist with the escalating workload on a part-time basis. Smith-Allegro serves as coordinator for osteopathic student services and reports directly to Larry Newbree, who acts as director for osteopathic student services. Her duties include assisting with registration and grading, verifying student enrollment, and monitoring student status changes.

Sultan S. Ahmed, M.D. has joined the NSU-COM faculty, where he will serve as part-time assistant professor in the Department of Family Medicine. Dr. Ahmed, who also acts as assistant professor and assistant clinical director of the College of Allied Health's Physician Assistant Program, will be involved in a range of NSU-COM academic activities, including clinical practicums, clinical correlations, and physical diagnosis courses. Additionally, he will assist Stanley Simpson, D.O. with work relating to the college's Web site clinical cases.



Sultan S. Ahmed, M.D.

On August 19, the 180 students who comprise the Class of 2004 took their first step toward potential osteopathic greatness when they participated in the NSU-COM

Editor's Message



*Scott Colton,
Director of Education
Communications*

Since its debut in February 2000, *COM Outlook* has featured a varied mix of information relative to the students, alumni, faculty, and staff who comprise the ever-growing NSU-COM family. As the magazine evolves, our intent is to publish a number of regular features, including in-depth student, alumni, faculty, and staff profiles as well as comprehensive stories concerning various COM activities and programs. Because the publication is for and about the College of Osteopathic Medicine, we encourage

reader input regarding content featured in upcoming editions.

Effective with the August issue, *COM Outlook* launched the "Alumni Corner," which is devoted to keeping our growing graduate base abreast of upcoming events and newsworthy alumni alerts. We encourage our alumni to contact us with any news items of interest, such as:

- ◆ prestigious awards or accolades received
- ◆ strides made in the osteopathic profession
- ◆ appointments to prestigious committees

Similarly, we encourage all NSU-COM students, faculty, and staff to contribute information relative to their specific areas. Our objective is to make *COM Outlook* a truly interactive enterprise that provides readers with an educational and entertaining overview of COM activities and the individuals who play a significant role in enhancing the college's stature locally, nationally, and globally.

If you have a story idea you would like to discuss or wish to submit a news item, photos, or a letter to the editor, please direct all queries and correspondence to:

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White Coat Ceremony, which was held at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts in Fort Lauderdale. The following sponsors played an integral role in ensuring the ceremony's success:

- Alumni Association
- Broward County Osteopathic Association
- Florida Osteopathic Medical Association
- Florida Society of American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians
- Office of the Dean

NSU-HPD's Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) Program will be receiving over \$3 million in overall external funding in the 2000-01 fiscal period, which initiated on October 1. This figure represents the largest annual allocation received in the program's 15-year history. Since AHEC's inception in 1985, total yearly awards have exceeded \$30 million. Following are the funding sources and monies awarded for 2000-01:

Federal AHEC Model Projects

Grant - \$312,670

Funded through the U.S. Public Health Service/Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

Federal Florida Border HETC

Grant - \$417,548

Funded through the U.S. Public Health Service/HRSA

State AHEC Program Contract

- \$2,271,359

Funded through the Florida Department of Health

Alumni Association Executive Committee

1999-2000 Officers

John Geake, D.O., President - Class of 1993
 Isidro Pujol, D.O., President Elect - Class of 1994
 Jeffrey Grove, D.O., Vice President - Class of 1990
 Robert Klein, D.O., Secretary - Class of 1991
 Glenn Moran, D.O., Treasurer - Class of 1988

Past Presidents

Tamer Gozleveli, D.O. - Class of 1987
 Michael Gervasi, D.O. - Class of 1987
 Orlando Garcia, D.O. - Class of 1994
 Daniel McBath, D.O. - Class of 1990

Committee Leaders

Isidro Pujol, D.O. - Program Chair
 Daniel McBath, D.O. - Fundraising Chair
 Tamer Gozleveli, D.O. - Webmaster
 Michael Gervasi, D.O. - Editor

Upcoming Events

AOA 105th Annual Convention

October 29 - November 2, 2000

Peabody Orlando/Orange County Convention
 Center in Orlando

National Osteopathic Week

November 11-18, 2000

Events to be announced

NSU-COM 2001 Alumni Reception

February 2-4, 2001

Hyatt Regency Pier 66 in Fort Lauderdale
 Friday night reception and Saturday evening
 banquet will be held at the hotel. All lectures will
 take place at NSU's Health Professions Division.
 For more information, please call (954) 262-1068
 or e-mail immacula@nova.edu.

Alumni Web Page: <http://medicine.nova.edu>

Join our Listserv! (listserv@list.nova.edu or
nsucom_alumni@list.nova.edu)

*We are encouraging all alumni to post their addresses on Listserv to build an
 Internet directory.*

*You may also access Listserv at the Alumni Web Page by clicking on
 the "Join Our Listserv" link.*



William Kirby, D.O., Class of 2000, was recently accepted into the residency training program at the Michigan Institute for Radiation Oncology, beginning in July 2001. Dr. Kirby is the first NSU-COM graduate to be admitted into this highly competitive residency and is the 13th osteopathic physician to enter this field. Dr. Kirby, who is currently participating in an internship at Mount Sinai Medical Center and Miami Heart Institute in Miami Beach, Florida, also is pursuing an NSU master of public health degree.

Maureen Campbell, D.O. FACEP, Class of 1989, recently received the Service Award of Merit from the American Heart Association, Florida/Puerto Rico Affiliate, at the organization's 50th Delegate Assembly in Tampa. Dr. Campbell, who serves as an NSU-COM clinical assistant professor, currently is on staff in the Emergency Department at Cleveland Clinic Florida Hospital in Fort Lauderdale. Dr. Campbell was honored for her role in developing a statewide program called "CPR Day" in conjunction with the American Heart Association. The program was designed to increase community awareness concerning the importance of cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training. This year, approximately 8,000 people throughout Florida were trained at CPR Day. To commemorate the event, Governor Jeb Bush signed an official proclamation designating April 29, 2000 as Mass CPR Day in Florida.

During the Florida Society ACOFP 20th Annual Convention, held August 9-12 at the Hyatt Regency Grand Cypress Resort in Orlando, NSU-COM held a reception for attending alumni members. The convention also served as an appropriate place to honor several deserving individuals, who were presented with awards of merit for their outstanding contributions to the osteopathic profession. They were:

- Don McBath, D.O. - Lifetime Achievement Award
- Marcelino Oliva, D.O. - Physician of the Year Award
- Tonya Hawthorne, D.O. - Humanitarian Award



NSU-COM students in attendance during the college's alumni gathering at the Florida Society ACOFP Convention included (from l): Alarmelu Sambandam, Christine Cochran, Donald L. Toler, Lily Limsuvanrot, and Kathleen Pelkan.



Standing (from l) are: Glenn Moran, D.O., 1988 NSU-COM alumnus; NSU-COM Dean Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O.; and Gregory James, D.O., 1988 NSU-COM alumnus.



Standing (from l) are: Jeffrey Grove, D.O., vice-president; Mark Varidin, D.O., president-elect; John Killinen, D.O., president; Daniel McBath, D.O., past president; Gregory James, D.O., secretary; and John Presutti, D.O., treasurer.

Gregory James, D.O., Class of 1988, composed an insightful article entitled "Addressing Barriers to Health Care for Our Elderly" which was published in the September 2000 issue of the ACOFP's *Family Physician*.

Gray Fenton, D.O., Class of 1998, was featured in the community news section of the Fort Lauderdale *Sun-Sentinel* concerning his "Doc on Call" service, which resurrects the old-fashioned concept of physicians making house calls.

Stephen L. McKernan, D.O., Class of 1989, has accepted a position as assistant professor in the Department of Family and Community Medicine and assumed the role of family practice residency director at Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Alumni Association Fund Honor Roll

In the spring of 1999, NSU-COM launched an alumni-based fundraising effort that aimed to serve two major purposes in the coming years: to generate dollars that would be used to create an endowment fund to reduce future tuition costs for NSU-COM students, and to build a funding pool that would be utilized for discretionary purposes as determined by the Alumni Association Executive Committee.

In an effort to bolster awareness of the fund's existence, NSU-COM students and volunteers will be contacting alumni members on November 6 and 7 between the hours of 5:30-9:30 p.m. as part of the Annual Alumni Fund Phonathon. If you would like to learn more about the Alumni Association Fund, please contact the Office of Alumni Affairs at (954) 262-1068.

Following are the altruistic individuals who have contributed to NSU-COM's Alumni Association Fund during the 1999-2000 fiscal cycle.

Heritage Circle

Represents donors who will make a significant deferred gift to the college via life-insurance policies, inheritances, or trusts. Additionally, friends of the osteopathic profession may choose to honor a D.O. by contributing to the fund. When this occurs, the contributors and the honoree will be appropriately acknowledged in the honor roll.

Chancellor's Council (\$5,000 or more)

Dean's Council (\$1,000-\$4,999)

John Geake, Jr., D.O.
Tamer Gozleveli, D.O.
Jeffrey Grove, D.O.
Gregory James, D.O.

500 Club (\$500-\$999)

Kenneth Johnson, D.O.
Isidro Pujol, D.O.

250 Club (\$250-\$499)

Joseph Corcoran, D.O.
Robert Klein, D.O.
Gregory Serfer, D.O.
Stanley S. Zimmerman, D.O.

Century Club (\$100-\$249)

Michael Baron, D.O.	Sharon Johnston, D.O.
Kenneth E. Bresky, D.O.	Frances M. Mally, D.O.
Charles Chodorow, D.O.	Mitchell Pace, D.O.
Richard Cottrell, D.O.	Robert Sammartino, D.O.
Bruce David, D.O.	Theodore A. Spevack, D.O.
John Gordon, D.O.	Donald Teplitz, D.O.
Jennifer Hayes, D.O.	

Friends (\$99 or less)

John G. Allred, D.O.	Marcos Rejtman, D.O.
Deirdra Bergman, D.O.	Susan Sager, D.O.
Alice F. Blavo, D.O.	Patrick Sayavong, D.O.
David Brown, D.O.	Lawrence Schwartz, D.O.
Douglas Bushell, D.O.	Sandi Scott-Holman, D.O.
Nai-li Chen, D.O.	Stuart Shalit, D.O.
Christopher Davis, D.O.	Cindy S. Marika Srebnick, D.O.
Maria Ruiz Harris, D.O.	Richard Thacker, D.O.
Joseph Hodge, D.O.	Linda Tripodis-Murray, D.O.
James D. Landreau, D.O.	Todd Trites, D.O.
Steven and Carolyn Newman, D.O.	
Hue Nguyen-Ngo, D.O.	
Lourdes Pelaez-Echevarria, D.O.	





Revisiting Antarctica

After spending a year in icy isolation, Dr. Robert Scott Thompson anxiously awaits a warm homecoming.



The countdown has begun for Dr. Thompson, whose yearlong Antarctic experience will conclude in late October.

When we last caught up with an intrepid D.O. named Robert Scott Thompson in the June issue of *COM Outlook*, he was enthusiastically extolling the virtues of his year-long assignment as the lone physician situated at the Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station in Antarctica. As the Class of 1991 alumnus nears the end of his memorable mission, it becomes dramatically clear that although his sense of humor has remained intact, both his body and spirit are flagging. In the following excerpts, Dr. Thompson shares his insights regarding the waning days of this extraordinary expedition, which is scheduled to conclude on October 23, 2000.

Escape from Antarctica

August is the most notorious month on the Ice. We've been under winter darkness for about twelve weeks. WinFly, the station opening flight, is close enough to start occupying our thoughts. The Winfly date was arbitrarily chosen months ago as October 23, but weather is the deciding factor on when the first Air National Guard "skier" plane actually makes it to the South Pole. The temperature must rise above minus-60 degrees centigrade for the plane's hydraulics to function. But first there is August. Thirty-one days that somehow seem twice as long as any other month. No one has a strong kick left to surge toward the end. Rather, we will continue our steady rate of deceleration with just enough forward momentum to stagger across the finish line. The goal is to finish, not to win, and simply see this trial to the end.

Isolation Exacts Emotional Toll

No one makes it through a Pole winter without feeling the desperate isolation, the darkness, the dryness, the want for oxygen, and the terrible unrelenting cold. One of the many sayings on The Ice is that you're doing well if you're one-third as productive now as you were back during the austral summer. There is a reason that an indigenous population does not exist anywhere on Antarctica -- it's not natural. You slowly slide southward to a point where you can't go any further, but then your brain continues to slide the longer you stay here. The fact that Americans have been continually occupying the Pole since 1958 is a testament to their fortitude, ingenuity, and a very strange geopolitical stubbornness embraced by our government.

Discomfort Defines Existence

I miss a full breath of air rich in oxygen, and not so cold that it feels like you're doing damage by filling your lungs to their fullest. Long after I became acclimated, there are still instances for no apparent reason when I feel like I can't

catch my breath, even at rest. I've noticed that when most people step outside, they seem to invariably cough once or twice with their first breath. Not from being sick, but just from the body's natural reflex to reject the driest, coldest air on the planet. I miss humidity, and am tired of my lips being cracked, my mouth always dry, my skin feeling like rice paper, and my nostrils feeling like the entrance to Carlsbad Caverns. When I wake up each morning, it feels as though my tongue has been permanently damaged, transformed into some matted piece of beef jerky. Thank God I have a good humidifier in my room, which helps make a slight dent against the awful dryness. I believe I could have comforted more people with a few dozen, high quality ultrasound humidifiers than half the pharmaceutical drugs I have on hand.

Exhilaration Turns to Agitation

Although I have gone longer periods in my life without seeing my family and friends, I miss them more than ever before, simply knowing there's no way I can get to them. Everyone's "toast" by now - pale, lethargic, irritable, prone to nonsensical statements, and with a blank expression typified by the infamous "ten thousand meter stare." You might think we would get cheerier as the time to Winfly grows nearer, and with sunrise just around the corner, but it's more like everyone practices less repression of their opinions, and the gloves start to come off.

Injury Induces Major Misery

Most of all I miss what it feels like not to be in constant physical pain. A seemingly minor slip and fall I took on The Ice months ago took an unexpected, aberrant course, and steadily worsened instead of improving, causing paralysis, numbness, and sometimes severe pain in my left leg. I can't walk without crutches and am spending the majority of my time lying on my right side, in bed. Thank God for modern medicines, but it appears I have suffered and injury for which the cure is to cut. I am already classified as an "urgent medevac," to be flown out to Christchurch (Cheech), New Zealand, and receive some long overdue medical and probably surgical care. My condition has gotten serious enough for my mom to fly from the United States and meet me in Cheech, for morale and logistical support once I get surgery on my lower back to relieve the pressure off of the nerve root. This is the most physical painful experience of my life, and I have been banged around a bit before ever coming to this godforsaken chunk of ice. So far, the support I have gotten from the home office has been good, but in reality there isn't much anyone off The Ice can do. We're stranded and we knew that before we came here.

Antarctica Expedition = Unforgettable Experience

Overall, I still would have to say that this is definitely the experience of a lifetime, for better or worse. I could do without the injury and pain, but otherwise I would still not trade this experience for anything. Let's just say I found what I was looking for - a place so unlike any other on the planet, where I was continually challenged. I met highly intelligent people from all over the world. I re-examined every cultural ideal I had learned in my life. The level of cooperation and community spirit necessary for survival, as well as the ecological management of our resources and waste, are at the highest standards of anywhere in the world. Now if I could just get my departure date bumped up a day or two sooner.





Fred Lippman, B.Sc., R.Ph.

corporate world, I'm the chief operating officer and Dr. Terry is the chief executive officer," he explained. "My responsibility is to execute the final administrative and academic policy decisions after consultation with Chancellor Terry. I deal with issues as simple as creating a new position at a particular college to approving and signing final budget documents."

Although Mr. Lippman ranks at the top of the HPD hierarchy, he is quick to stress that his method of management involves fostering a sense of camaraderie and inclusion. "My responsibilities tie in with the deans, but even though administratively I am their 'boss,' I don't approach it that way," he reiterated. "I maintain the point of view that we are all colleagues, and I do everything I can to help and facilitate the deans' very difficult jobs. They communicate with Dr. Terry and myself many times during the week. Dean Silvagni and myself meet on a daily basis debriefing one another on items of interest and significance at the College of Osteopathic Medicine. During that time, we discuss everything from administration and curriculum to governmental relations, personnel issues, and strategic planning."

During his productive 20-year legislative career, Mr. Lippman earned his constituents' respect by adhering to a policy of open and honest communication. That same "open-door" approach is a precept he also endorses at the Health Professions Division. "I believe that the doors must be open at all times," stated Mr. Lippman, who rarely remains isolated in his fifth-floor office. Most days, he can be found in the clinics and various colleges or deliberating with financial aid and admissions counselors. "I try to gather input by talking to people. I think it's good for morale, and secondly, you'd be surprised how much you learn from talking with someone -- from a support person to a departmental chair to a dean."

Mr. Lippman and Dr. Terry initially joined forces in the 1970's, when the pioneering osteopathic physician was launching an unsuccessful bid to petition the state to establish a college of osteopathic medicine in South Florida. "At the time, I was involved in a number of civic activities in Broward County. It happened that we had a mutual friend, and that's how I became involved in trying to help Dr. Terry get state approval for the establishment of a college of osteopathic medicine," stated Mr. Lippman. "We stayed in touch as the school was being formulated and once it was established, I participated in a number of activities. I taught some courses in intra-professional affairs and community medicine while I practiced pharmacy and served as a member of the Florida Legislature."

In 1986, when Dr. Terry and his board members were considering establishing the College of Pharmacy, they wisely solicited Mr. Lippman's invaluable advice and pharmaceutical acumen. "I had the opportunity to make some suggestions and participate in the group that investigated the feasibility of establishing the College of Pharmacy," he explained. "Once the decision was made to establish the pharmacy school, Dr. Terry basically told me, 'Come on, change your life.' So in early 1987, I came on board as the first administrative officer of the College of Pharmacy."

During the next seven years, as additional colleges were established and university status was conferred on the institution, Mr. Lippman's role continued to expand proportionately. "Once we became Southeastern University of the Health Sciences in 1989, Dr. Terry appointed me to serve as vice president of external affairs. From that point on, my duties were expanded to take on more administrative responsibilities. In the early 1990's, I became even more involved in administration because Dr. Terry and my predecessor, Dr. Arnold Melnick, were involved in the due diligence work for our merger with Nova University."

Talks relating to what would become the second-largest academic merger in the nation's history proceeded, and in January 1994, Southeastern University of the Health Sciences united with Nova University to become Nova Southeastern University, with Southeastern's former programs comprising the newly-named NSU Health Professions Division. In 1996, when construction of the HPD complex was completed, Mr. Lippman was promoted to the position of vice chancellor for professional affairs. "My immediate supervisor was Dr. Melnick, who was the executive vice chancellor and provost at the time," recalled Mr. Lippman. "I also had the privilege of carrying on in the legislature, but I spent all my days here dealing with my expanded responsibilities."

The merger clearly offered the potential for tremendous synergy and collaboration with Nova's myriad academic programs, but it also created a tremendous, time-sensitive challenge: relocating from the North Miami Beach campus. "Many people change personal residences a few times in their lifetimes, but nothing could have prepared us to move all of our academic and clinical programs, equipment, laboratories, offices, and facilities," said Mr. Lippman. "We planned the actual move for the summer of 1996 to avoid disrupting the education of our students. It wasn't easy, but we did it within our original timetable. No student was inconvenienced by the move, and as a result of our merger, we have been able to expand our program offerings, increase the opportunities for interdisciplinary research and understanding, and provide a much broader array of services for our students under the auspices of Nova Southeastern University."

Pharmaceutical Pursuits Pave Historic Paths

Like so many Floridians who are transplants from the northeastern United States, Mr. Lippman was born in Brooklyn, New York in 1935. A product of the New York public school system, he graduated from James Madison High School before matriculating at Columbia University College of Pharmacy, where he earned his professional degree in pharmaceutical sciences. Over four decades later, Mr. Lippman's thirst for knowledge remains unquenched, as is evidenced by his current pursuit of an NSU doctoral degree in higher education administration.

During his time at Columbia, Mr. Lippman's innate leadership potential was already on display. In addition to serving as student council president, the future state legislator was elected as president of his junior and senior class and earned the 1958 Reisman Award for being the "Outstanding Pharmacy Senior." As graduation neared, a close friendship he had struck up with a classmate would soon lead Mr. Lippman to a decidedly southern destination. "My closest friend in college was a gentleman by the name of Jay Tischenkel, who currently serves as HPD director of institutional advancement. He and his brother ended up opening pharmacies in Florida, and I was offered the opportunity to come to South Florida.

"I had never been further south than Washington, D.C.," said Mr. Lippman. "In fact I'd never been anywhere except Washington, D.C., New Jersey, and Connecticut. So I arrived in Florida in 1959 and went to work for the Tischenkel family. I didn't even know there was any other part of Florida except Miami Beach, so that's where my wife Judy and I moved to before relocating several miles north to Hollywood in 1961."

In 1964, Mr. Lippman -- the proud father of sons Steven, Peter, and Matthew -- established his own

community pharmacy practice. Its success spurred him to open four additional pharmacies over the next 12 years. Looming on the horizon, however, was his entry into the fulfilling world of public service and elected office.

From Prescriptions to Politics

Although it wasn't until 1978 that Mr. Lippman decided to run as a candidate for the Florida House of Representatives, District 100 (Hollywood), his dedication to public service had been evident nearly a decade earlier, when Florida Governor Claude Kirk appointed Mr. Lippman to serve as commissioner of the South Broward Hospital District. Other gubernatorial appointments soon followed, as did his commitment to serving on numerous civic and professional associations. During the 1970's, Mr. Lippman's professional and public service affiliations included:

- President, Florida Pharmacy Association, District 6
- Chairman, Florida Pharmacy Association Legislative Committee
- Speaker of the House of Delegates, Florida Pharmacy Association
- President, Broward County Pharmacists Association
- Chairman, Broward County Charter Review Commission
- Member, Greater Hollywood Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors
- Member, American Red Cross, Broward County Chapter, Board of Directors
- Member, YMCA of Hollywood Board of Directors

When he finally made the decision to run for a seat in the Florida Legislature, Mr. Lippman had the endorsement and encouragement of many friends and peers. "I was at a point in time when I was able to do something that many individuals had wanted me to do for a long time, which was to run for the state legislature," he explained. His initial campaign met with immediate success, and Mr. Lippman went on to serve as a member of the Florida House of Representatives from 1978 through 1998.

Over the next 20 years, Mr. Lippman played a significant role in enacting legislation that would positively impact the constituents in his district as well as the state as a whole. Some of the hallmarks of his legislative tenure included creating the first statewide "911" regulating statutes and trauma system as well as serving as the lead sponsor of the Seatbelt Act in 1985. When asked to name his most noteworthy legislative achievement, Mr. Lippman proudly points to a bill he helped create in 1983 that has since saved the lives of countless children. "In 1982 to 1983, I had the ability to sponsor the Child Restraint Bill, which is the most significant thing I have done," he stated. "There was a definite need to address the safety of Florida's youngsters in terms of establishing car-seat restraints, and this legislation clearly served that purpose."

In recent years, Mr. Lippman has devoted much of his free time to a cause extremely dear to his heart: the Holocaust Education and Documentation Center. "I had the privilege of working with Elaine Bloom, the state representative from Miami Beach, on establishing the Holocaust Education Act, which mandates that every public school program, within the kindergarten through 12th grade, must establish a course which educates children about the truth of the Holocaust so it will not be forgotten," explained Mr. Lippman. "It's

taught in all schools throughout Florida, and it's a project I'm very dedicated to."

Father of Florida's AHEC

In 1978, Mr. Lippman began work on a pet project that would eventually become an integral part of both the College of Osteopathic Medicine and the HPD as a whole. The genesis of the project -- the Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) Program - came about when former Florida Governor Bob Graham, now a U.S. senator, called Mr. Lippman with a seemingly simple request. "Right before he took office, Governor Graham asked me to travel to North Carolina to observe that state's rural health care system," he recalled. "I was the guest of Dr. Eugene Mayer, who is considered the 'guru' and preeminent leader in the national AHEC system. At the time, North Carolina had the most innovative and mature AHEC system in the United States, so I traveled with Dr. Mayer for four days and kept my eyes and ears open the whole time."

Impressed with what he had witnessed, Mr. Lippman reported his findings to Governor Graham and received the go-ahead to coordinate the formation of an AHEC program in Florida. Initially, he approached the University of Florida in Gainesville, but he soon decided to contact his old friend Dr. Morton Terry, who had just launched the Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine.

"In 1983, I came to Dr. Terry and Dr. Melnick, who served as the college's dean in the 1980's, and I suggested to them that establishing an AHEC would be a wonderful thing to do, both from the standpoint of providing students of the new medical school with valuable real-life experience in providing community-based clinical training as well as from the perspective of helping medically needy urban and rural areas improve their access to health care service," he explained. "Being innovative as they always are, they jumped at the opportunity to make an impact on the chronic problem of Florida's medically underserved areas, and so I became the initiator of Florida's first AHEC program."

Thanks to a financial endowment called the Rural and Unmet Needs Grant, the process of forming Florida's inaugural AHEC program was set in motion. "That money was used by Dr. Melnick to file for a grant with the federal government to establish an AHEC program," explained Mr. Lippman. "While our application was being processed, officials from the University of Miami approached us and basically said they were also interested in forming a similar AHEC program. We both decided that Southeastern would develop a largely rural AHEC and that UM would apply to establish an urban AHEC. And that's how I became the known as the 'father' of the AHEC in Florida. Interestingly, 17 years after AHEC's formation, we are still receiving the Rural and Unmet Needs Grant, and we are doing more than ever to help underserved communities in South and Central Florida meet the needs of their most medically underserved residents."

Mr. Lippman also fought to secure state funding for the AHEC program to prepare for the time when federal seed money disbursements expired. "The program was funded through the federal government for only five years," he stated. "Fortunately, the Florida Legislature agreed to continue the funding and sustain the program." While he clearly played a significant role in launching Florida's first AHEC program, Mr. Lippman is quick to credit several key individuals who have been instrumental in ensuring AHEC's success over the years. "I have to give 95 percent of all the credit to Dr. Steve Zucker, NSU-COM associate dean for community affairs and AHEC program director, because without him, there would be no AHEC program of consequence here. And, of course, Dr. Rosebud Foster, special projects consultant for the program, has been a tremendous help as well. Throughout my entire legislative life, I've fought to fund, protect, and expand all of the AHEC programs in the state of Florida. The need is definitely there."

Since the AHEC program was established locally in 1985, the state's three other medical schools -

located at the University of Florida, the University of Miami, and the University of South Florida - have joined in the AHEC movement and are successfully collaborating with NSU on statewide health care access issues as the Florida AHEC Network. In 1997, this productive and effective partnership earned national recognition when it received the prestigious Eugene S. Mayer Award as the "Most Outstanding AHEC Program in the Nation."

Futuristic Approach Propels HPD

Maintaining a place on the cutting edge of research technology is another goal the HPD has successfully achieved with the able assistance of Mr. Lippman, who served for five years as chairman of the Health Professions Division Research Committee. Under his direction, research laboratories were developed on campus, core high-technology multi-user research equipment was acquired, and protocols and guidelines for research activity were drafted.

As a result of Mr. Lippman's role in the development of a research infrastructure, there has been a tremendous increase in basic research funding, research publication, and submitted grants in recent years. "I'm proud to report that our students are now participating in undergraduate research programs, and for the past few years, students have presented their research findings at regional and national conferences in even-greater numbers," he stated. "Scholarship is an essential component of the mission of the Health Professions Division, and in recent years, an increasing proportion of the new faculty hires from the College of Osteopathic Medicine, as well as the rest of the HPD, have possessed a research background."

Another major component of the HPD mission statement, as envisioned by Chancellor Terry, is the continued promotion of interdisciplinary training and research. "Dr. Terry is a visionary in so many ways, and many years ago he foresaw the need to foster greater understanding across the health professions," explained Mr. Lippman. "Today, it's common knowledge that the physician, the pharmacist, and the rest of the health care team do not and can not work in isolation, but must learn to work together to coordinate patient care and treatment, but this wisdom was known to Dr. Terry over 20 years ago.

"Part of our challenge is to promote sharing of knowledge and a mutual awareness of the challenges and needs of the various health professions, which serve as the basis of a lifetime of interdisciplinary understanding and turf-free teamwork," he added. "We are constantly striving to present new opportunities for interdisciplinary education at the HPD, and we are also reviewing opportunities which may present themselves throughout the university."

Creating effective and innovative academic and clinical programs that serve the needs of the students matriculating at the six Health Professions Division colleges has been the primary goal of the HPD administration, and that focus will persist as the institution continues to grow and evolve. "We are like the Rock of Gibraltar - strong and significant. But we are also like an iceberg - always moving," stated Mr. Lippman metaphorically. "The paradigm of what we are is always changing. We will always have our core colleges, but there's an opportunity to evolve into other areas of health care education.

"Traditional healthcare delivery systems are changing," he added. "But as quick as we are to respond, we are proceeding very cautiously, based on the fact that we always want to protect our students' ability to receive the best education we can provide them. We are also very cognizant of the fact that we are primarily tuition driven. Therefore, our main concern is for the students. My main job is to try to keep that sense of proportion always in the forefront of my relationship with the deans and their faculties and administrative teams. We're not here just to present our own product, we're here to present our product to our customer, which happens to be the student."

The seeds of change that were sown in 1981 when the College of Osteopathic Medicine was established have resulted in a major educational harvest that continues to reap both rewards and results. "We have made tremendous progress in the 19 years since we opened the College of Osteopathic Medicine, which is a testament to the strength and viability of Chancellor Terry's original vision," said Mr. Lippman. "These are exciting times; osteopathic medicine continues to gain in acceptance, and I urge everyone to join with us in developing the premier osteopathic institution and in extending its activities and good reputation to all points in the globe.

"I am proud and humbled to serve as Chancellor Terry's right arm in the administration of the Health Professions Division of Nova Southeastern University," he concluded. "Together, as we work for the education and training of the most knowledgeable, dedicated, and compassionate osteopathic physicians and health care professionals, we are preparing for a new century of progress."

Awards and Accolades of Note Presented to Fred Lippman

2000 - Tree of Life, Lifetime Achievement Award, Jewish National Federation

1999 - Lifetime Legislative Achievement Award, Broward County Council of Professional Firefighters

1998 - Public Service Award, U.S. Department of Transportation

1998 - Distinguished Service Award, American Trauma Society

1998 - Lifetime Achievement Award, Florida Dental Association

1998 - Community Service, Lifetime Achievement Award, Greater Hollywood Chamber of Commerce

1997 - Captain of Industry Award, Florida Maritime Forum

1997 - Outstanding Advocate, Florida International University Institute of Holocaust Documentation

1997 - Children's Advocate of the Year, Family Central, Inc.

1997 - Legislator of the Year, Florida Osteopathic Medical Association

1996 - Outstanding Legislator and Advocate for Children, Florida Pediatric Society

1995 - Legislator of the Year, Florida Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association

1995 - Appreciation Award, Florida Safety & Health Institute

Awards and Accolades of Note Presented to Fred Lippman

1995 - Legislator of the Year, Florida Banking Association

1995 - Outstanding Health Services Person of South Florida, NSU Institute of Health Policy and Administration

1995 - Legislative Leadership Award, Florida Medical Association

1995 - Appreciation Award, Associated Home Health Industries of Florida

1995 - Legislative Leadership Award, Florida Association of Trial Attorneys

1995 - Appreciation Award, David Posnack Jewish Community Center

1994 - Public Appreciation Award, Florida Professional Firefighters

1993 - Appreciation Award, Broward County Council of Professional Firefighters

1988 - Outstanding Legislator, Florida Optometric Association

1987 - Outstanding Legislator, Florida Dietetic Association

1987 - Outstanding Legislator, Florida Marine Industries

1986 - Samuel P. Bell Award, Florida Pediatric Society

1986 - Outstanding Legislator, Visiting Nurses Association

1986 - Child Advocate Heart Award, Children's Consortium

1986 - Hubert Humphrey Award for Excellence in Pharmacy, American Pharmaceutical Association

STAFF SNAPSHOT

Getting to Know Johneta Goodwin Executive Assistant to the Dean

Official NSU-COM Responsibilities

"My duties include assisting Dean Silvagni in the operation of the College of Osteopathic Medicine. This includes all aspects of the college, and as the dean would say, I am an extension of him - without a mustache of course! We have worked closely for many years, and we are at a point now that we know what the other is going to say, which is kind of scary."

Where She Hopes to be in Five Years

"Relaxing, traveling, and enjoying my granddaughter. I would also like to do volunteer work in some capacity."

Fun Fact No. 1

"Most of my coworkers know me as Johneta, but the majority of people I meet don't have a clue how to pronounce my name. My unusual name was given to me by my father, John. He wanted a boy in the worst way, so when I arrived, he told my mother that he was determined to have a child with the name John in it, and he named me on the spot. Johneta is actually my middle name. My first name is Mary."

Fun Fact No. 2

"I spent the first 10 years of my life in the county jail - due to the fact that my father was the county sheriff for 20-plus years. I grew up in a town of 5,000 people in Iowa and attended grade school with the same classmates, and every year, I thought they would enjoy a tour of the jail for my 'Show and Tell Time.' It wasn't until much later that I realized they were probably tired of seeing the jail year after year, although we were always happy to go on any field trip. My favorite things to do while living at the jail were helping to feed the prisoners by passing the tin dish through a window and watching the 'drunks' walk the white line."



Johneta shares a tender moment with her granddaughter Grace.

Most Memorable Moments

"The most exciting event was the birth of my son. The second-most exciting thing was opening up the mail one day and discovering I was getting a big check from an uncle who had passed away. When my mother and dad married, she was 17 and he was 51 (yes, those are the correct ages!), so you can imagine that my aunts and uncles were considerably older, and my sister and I didn't really get to know them."

We had no idea we were getting the money, so it was a big shocker. Of course, I was young and innocent, so I decided I was going to have a good time with the money. I took a cruise, did some traveling, bought a car, etc., and before long, my inheritance was gone. I figured I didn't have it before, so I may as well enjoy it, which I did."

Greatest Achievement

"The wonderful relationship I have with my son and raising him to be a successful businessman and a wonderful father."

Favorite Hobbies

"Reading books and magazines, cruising around the flea markets and malls, and having coffee with friends. I also enjoy traveling and decorating. I have decorated the homes of several friends, and it's something I always wished I had done as a full-time job."

Fun Fantasy

"Take a hot-air balloon ride, which I still intend to do."

Three Words that Best Describe Dean Silvagni

"Caring, dedicated, and fun."



OPP Department Embraces Generalist Approach

By Scott Colton

Director of Education Communications

Earlier this year, NSU-COM radically revamped its Division of Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine (OMM) by implementing a range of beneficial modifications. First came the adoption of a name change that more accurately reflected the college's generalist approach to osteopathic medicine - the Department of Osteopathic Principles and Practices (OPP). Dean Silvagni then recruited Elaine Wallace, D.O. and Michael Patterson, Ph.D. from the University of Health Sciences College of Osteopathic Medicine in Kansas City, Missouri, to helm the reconfigured department.

"I am here because of Dr. Silvagni," said Dr. Wallace, who serves as chair of NSU-COM's Department of Osteopathic Principles and Practices. "He embodies a tradition of osteopathic medicine that is different than is being assumed in many of our colleges today, which are not following Osteopathic Principles and Practices. They are making OMM or OPP a subspecialty. Dr. Silvagni, being a generalist, believes it should be part of the generalist curriculum, that it should be infused throughout the entirety of the curriculum, and that it should be the focal point of the curriculum. Dr. Terry expressed the same philosophy with me when I came down to interview, which I think you'll find is becoming more and more rare in our osteopathic colleges."

Over the past 50 years, the line between osteopathic and allopathic practices has blurred, resulting in a widespread misconception concerning the intrinsic essence of osteopathic medicine. "You'll find that many people are struggling with the definition of what osteopathic medicine is," stated Dr. Wallace, who served as vice dean for academic affairs and professor in Kansas City's OPP department. "There is a tendency for many of our educators to move it toward the allopathic frame of medicine."

This trend, which took root in the 1940's, is a major concern to true exponents of osteopathic medicine

like Dr. Wallace, who are determined to re-purify the profession and distance themselves from the manipulative medicine subspecialty mentality. "During the 1940's and 50's, osteopaths were so busy trying to prove they were as good as or the same as allopaths that many turned their backs on their bolder tradition and their manual medicine training to be accepted in allopathic hospitals," Dr. Wallace explained. "Over the years, those individuals started a cascade that now has made it difficult for our students to go out into the clinics and find people who truly do OPP. In fact, most residencies in the specialty areas pretty much ignore OPP components altogether. Students can find those individuals who still render total health care in the family medicine and rural medicine disciplines, but it's becoming increasingly difficult."

The confusion over osteopathic medicine's manipulative aspect has been exacerbated over the years, due in part to the varied ways departments are designated. Osteopathic Principles and Practices, Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine, and Osteopathic Manipulative Therapy are the most commonly used appellations, but in reality, each term conjures up a different connotation. To address this issue, a national initiative was launched several years ago to standardize the names and bring a sense of cohesion to the profession. However, when the Educational Council on Osteopathic Principles (ECOP) voted to adopt Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine as the official designation, dissension reverberated through some osteopathic sectors.

"In Kansas City, we decided we were not going to follow ECOP's lead," said Dr. Wallace. "We took a renegade stance because we believe that OMM doesn't necessarily take in the full spectrum of what osteopathic medicine is. Osteopathic Principles and Practices takes in not only the manipulative aspect but also the philosophic component."

Dr. Patterson, who serves as assistant chair of NSU-COM's Department of Osteopathic Principles and Practices, echoed Dr. Wallace's comments. "I think what Dr. Wallace said is extremely important," he stressed. "People began to equate osteopathic medicine with manipulation when in reality, osteopathy starts with a philosophy -- a way of thinking about how a physician should think and practice. The manipulative part is a direct result of

that, but the way of thinking about how a physician interacts with the patient is the primary bedrock of osteopathy. Of course, osteopathy is not the only place this is found by any means, but it is certainly one of the only places it has evolved as a specific philosophy."

The arrival of Dr. Patterson and Dr. Wallace has heralded a renewed focus for NSU-COM's Department of Osteopathic Principles and Practices, which had been operating under the leadership of Professor Emeritus Arthur Snyder, D.O. and Associate Professor Mark Sandhouse, D.O.

"Dr. Sandhouse and Dr. Snyder have done the yeoman's job of holding the department together with limited resources because they were covering many different things," stressed Dr. Wallace. "What Dr. Patterson and I bring to the department is over 50 years of cumulative experience. We bring a research component, and because I am board certified in sports medicine and family medicine, my perspective is much more that of a generalist. We bring enthusiasm into the department because we like what we do, and we bring completeness to a program that was already beginning to be successfully developed."

Dr. Patterson, who served as director of basic science research and professor in Kansas City's OPP department, says the elements are now in place to develop a thriving Department of Osteopathic Principles and Practices here at NSU-COM. Departmental staff size has doubled with the addition of Louis Hasbrouck, D.O, who also was recruited from Kansas City, while James Cox, D.O., who was serving as an NSU-COM clinical faculty member, was upgraded to full-time instructor status.

"Dr. Wallace and I are both very active in a teaching role here, and there is also an added sense of enthusiasm that we can bring by growing the department and increasing the opportunities for everyone involved," said Dr. Patterson. "In academics, if someone is completely overwhelmed simply by the mechanics of delivering a program, then there is no time to do the contemplative, scholarly things that are necessary in an academic environment. This is something we are actively

fostering -- finding out what the people who are here want to do with the extra luxury of time, and giving them the opportunity to further the areas in which they have particular interest. We both believe very strongly in finding out what our department members want to do and helping them do just that. Not everyone wants to do heavy research, so we want to build on the individual strengths."

An increased emphasis on research has already been employed under the auspices of Dr. Patterson, who also served as director of research affairs for Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine from 1977 through 1990. "Everyone now, from the undergraduate fellows to the department members, is responsible for one clinical research project per year," Dr. Wallace explained. "Currently, we are working on an interesting collaborative project with the physical therapy department in the College of Allied Health on the measurement of gait dysfunction in the elderly and assessing whether or not there is gait improvement through manipulative therapy. Additionally, Dr. Sandhouse is beginning a project with the College of Optometry that addresses visual acuity.

"We have received a very warm welcome and have found a great interest in collaboration within the Health Professions Division," added Dr. Wallace. There are unlimited cross-disciplinary opportunities available here, and we have found people extremely amiable to pursuing those opportunities with us."



Michael Patterson, Ph.D. and Elaine Wallace, D.O.



Haiti

NSU-COM Extends Helping Hand to Haiti

By Scott Colton
Director of Education Communications

Doctors frequently earn a bad wrap from the media, which tend to portray physicians as golf-loving, Medicare manipulating megalomaniacs who care more about making money than they do about dispensing caring and comprehensive patient care. In truth, while that stereotypical assessment may apply to a small percentage of the nation's medical practitioners, most physicians truly are committed to solving the pervasive health care woes that exist on a local, national, and global level.

In June, NSU-COM and the Student National Medical Association (SNMA), in conjunction with Project Medi-Share, proved just how compassionate the medical community can be by partnering in a humanitarian effort that provided vital medical treatment to remote areas of Haiti. The project, entitled Medical Mission 2000 to Haiti, featured a mix of 16 health care professionals and community volunteers who dedicated a week of their time -- and dug deep into their pockets -- to participate in the health care excursion.

The idea to conduct a Haitian medical mission first germinated in 1999, when several NSU-COM students participated in a similar endeavor conducted by Arthur Fournier, M.D. through the University of Miami School of Medicine and its affiliated Project Medi-Share program. The experience of providing clinical and preventive medical care to indigent Haitian communities proved so rewarding that upon their return, the participating NSU-COM student physicians immediately approached Paula Anderson-Worts, D.O., faculty advisor for NSU-COM's Student National Medical Association chapter, about coordinating a similar mission through the College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Once approval was received and the requisite planning was completed, the excited participants, who included four Creole speaking individuals, arrived at the Port-au-Prince International Airport to confront a challenging, fulfilling -- and decidedly unglamorous -- week of medical mission work.

Educational Opportunities Abound

In addition to serving as a keen educational experience in the medical sense, the Haiti expedition afforded many of the participants an eye-opening look at the vast cultural and socioeconomic differences that exist outside the United States. "I saw this trip as a wonderful educational and teaching opportunity," said Michelle Powell-Cole, D.O., who works in NSU's North Miami Beach Health Center and served as the mission's lead physician. "Going into an underdeveloped country was quite a surprise to the students because they saw that the airport was not air conditioned, that there was no running water, and that the country

consisted of dirt roads. There were very few vehicles and most people walked to their destinations. The entire environment was such a stark contrast from the United States, and that in itself was an experience.”

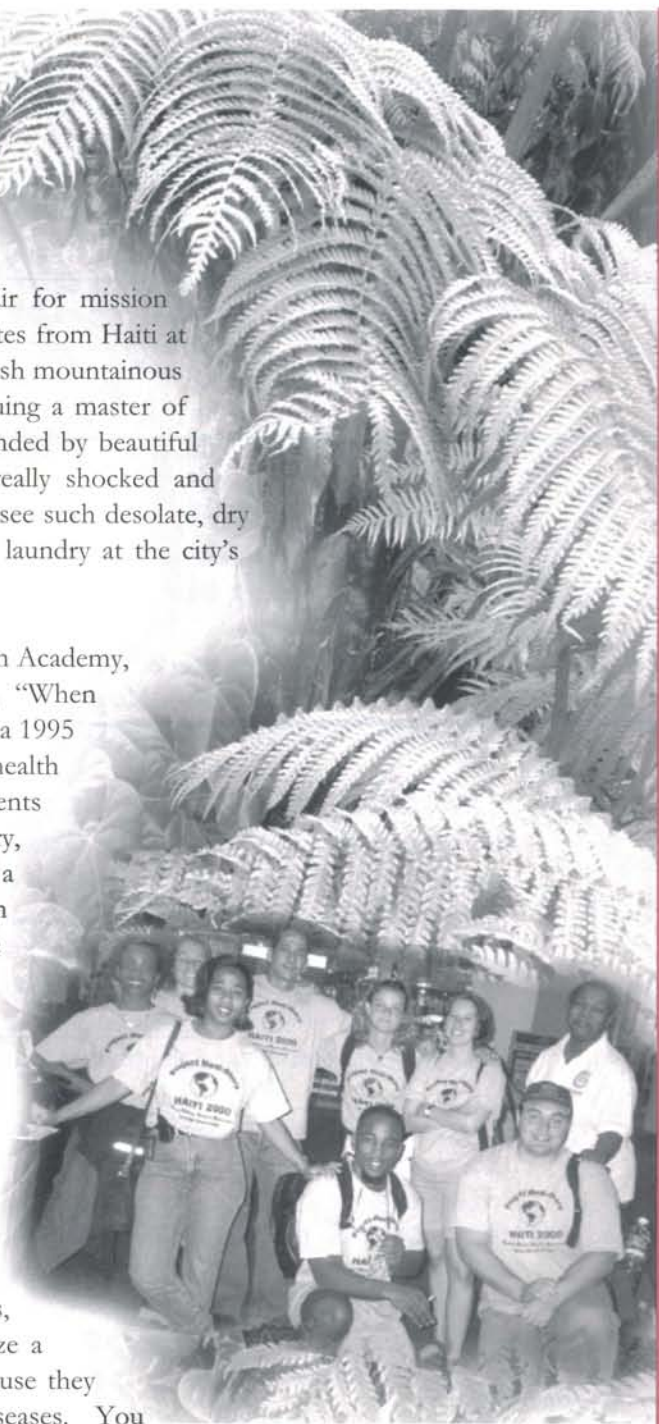
Visiting her birthplace proved to be a distinctly affecting affair for mission participant Immacula Hamilton, who relocated to the United States from Haiti at the tender age of six. “In my memory bank, I remembered the lush mountainous island where I lived,” recalled Hamilton, who is currently pursuing a master of public health degree at NSU. “Where I grew up, I was surrounded by beautiful waterfalls, lush greenery and trees ripe with fruit, so I was really shocked and disturbed to see a different side of Haiti. I was not prepared to see such desolate, dry land or to witness impoverished people bathing or doing their laundry at the city’s roadside.

The first leg of the mission involved a three-day stay at the Haitian Academy, which was located in a bucolic setting just outside Port-au-Prince. “When we got there, it looked just like a farm,” recalled Dr. Powell-Cole, a 1995 NSU-COM alumna who recently earned her master of public health degree. Unlike the U.S. educational structure, where students matriculate at different sites as they progress through the elementary, high school, and college stages, the Haitian Academy serves as a one-stop learning haven, allowing the populace to begin kindergarten and complete medical school training -- all at the same location. This particular site was selected based on the recommendation of Sultan Ahmed, M.D., an assistant professor in NSU-COM’s Department of Family Medicine who periodically lectures at the academy.

Once the mission personnel settled in, they were taken to the academy’s clinic, which basically amounted to a barren one-room building. “The teaching point for the students was that they had to set up a pharmacy as well as a functioning clinic,” explained Dr. Powell-Cole. “They had to identify and label all the medications, organize the supplies, set up the examining rooms, and organize a triage area. It’s an invaluable opportunity for the students because they learn about other cultures and are exposed to rare tropical diseases. You cannot get that in the classroom. You can’t learn that in a textbook. In the end, I think the students actually got more out of it than the patients because they were able to actually run a clinic themselves.”

During their three-day academy stint, the health care professionals examined several hundred Haitians, many of who exhibited symptoms related to ailments typically found in rural, underdeveloped areas of the world. “We saw 68 people the first day, but then the message got out that we were there and the number swelled to about 124 or so individuals,” said Dr. Powell-Cole. “From 8:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., we saw patients nonstop and conducted complete physical exams.”

The most commonly diagnosed conditions were malnutrition, malaria, scabies, tinea capitis, tinea corporis, gastroenteritis, hypertension, foot neglect, and poor hygiene, which is directly attributable to the country’s lack of adequate sanitation and indoor plumbing. “As you can imagine, many of the Haitians suffer from severe malnutrition,” stated Dr. Powell-Cole.



*Preparing for takeoff at
Miami International Airport.*

"The children are a lot smaller than our children here in the U.S. For example, I examined a three-year-old toddler who only weighed 20 pounds and a one-year-old who only weighed 14 pounds."

The medical team also dealt with high incidences of skin infections and non-specific abdominal complaints, which were to be expected in a region where the inhabitants exist in oppressively squalid conditions. Not surprisingly, the absence of running water was acknowledged as the primary source for many of the diagnosed maladies. "We found that the people bathe in and cook with the same water that their animals are drinking from, so it basically becomes a breeding ground for germs and bacteria," explained Dr. Powell-Cole. "Many of the patients were suffering from high fevers and dysentery, and we did what we could to ease their discomfort."

Election Unrest Disrupts Itinerary

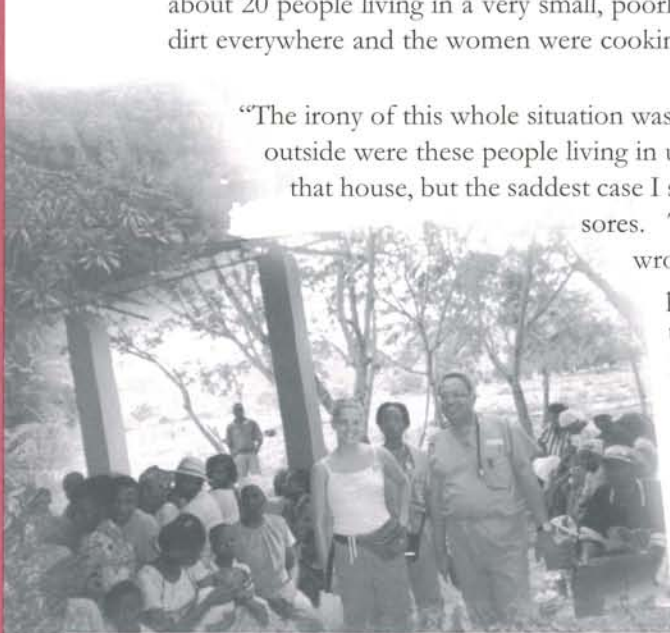
Following their stay at the Haitian Academy, the health care team was shuttled to the Moulin sur Mere resort, which was located approximately 90 minutes from the Haitian Academy. The initial plan was to spend the next few days seeing patients in a nearby village, but civil unrest caused by the country's heated political elections forced the mission participants to remain safely ensconced in their hotel. "We were advised to stay in our hotel because there were protests taking place throughout the area," explained Dr. Powell-Cole. "We heard that fires were being set and vehicles were being stopped, so at that point staying put seemed to be the wisest option."

Luxuriating at one on Haiti's finest resorts would seem like an appealing way to ride out the tense political situation for the average tourist; however, when you're a health care practitioner who has traveled numerous miles to aid the country's medically needy, the urge to heal overrides any selfish inclinations. "We knew we were here to do a mission, so we decided to go outside the hotel and treat the people in the surrounding village," explained Dr. Powell-Cole. "Adjacent to the hotel, we discovered a family of about 20 people living in a very small, poorly constructed home made out of zinc covering. There was dirt everywhere and the women were cooking outside in a big pot over rocks and branches.

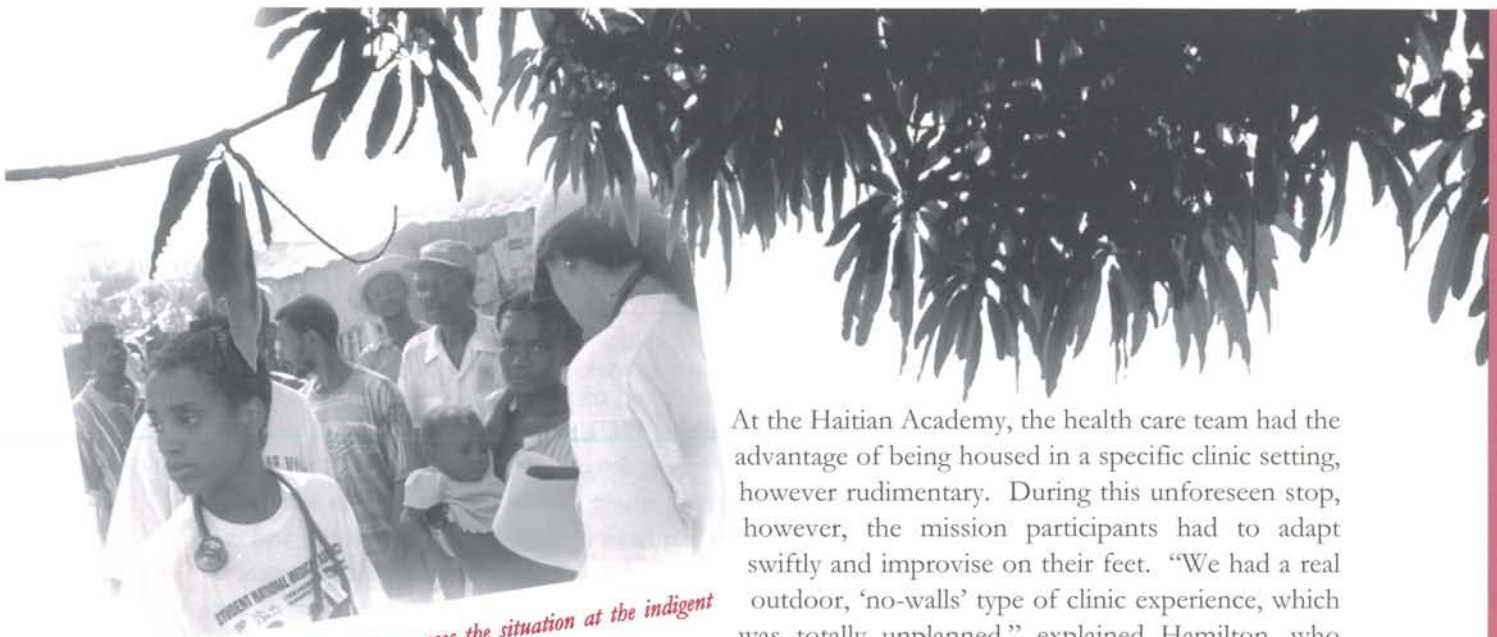
"The irony of this whole situation was that next door to this site was this beautiful hotel, but right outside were these people living in unbelievable poverty," she added. "We treated 18 people in that house, but the saddest case I saw was an 11-month-old infant who was covered with open sores. The mother brought the child to me and asked what was wrong. Basically, it was a massive skin infection caused from playing in the dirt, so I gave her some triple antibiotics and told her she had to keep the wounds clean to promote healing. Just at that moment, the infant urinated all over itself. I immediately told the mother that she had to wash the baby, but because there is no running water, you can imagine the hygiene problems that arise. Coming from the United States, the experience was really shocking."



Touchdown at Haiti's Port-au-Prince Airport.



Christa Ambrose, Dr. Michelle Powell-Cole, and Dr. Sultan Ahmed pose for an impromptu shot outside the Haitian Academy.



Dr. Powell-Cole (far left) assesses the situation at the indigent village located just outside the Moulin sur Mere resort.

At the Haitian Academy, the health care team had the advantage of being housed in a specific clinic setting, however rudimentary. During this unforeseen stop, however, the mission participants had to adapt swiftly and improvise on their feet. "We had a real outdoor, 'no-walls' type of clinic experience, which was totally unplanned," explained Hamilton, who serves as administrative secretary in NSU-COM's Office of Alumni Affairs. "By the time we returned from the hotel

with the medications, a long line had formed because word had spread to those working in the nearby fields that we there."

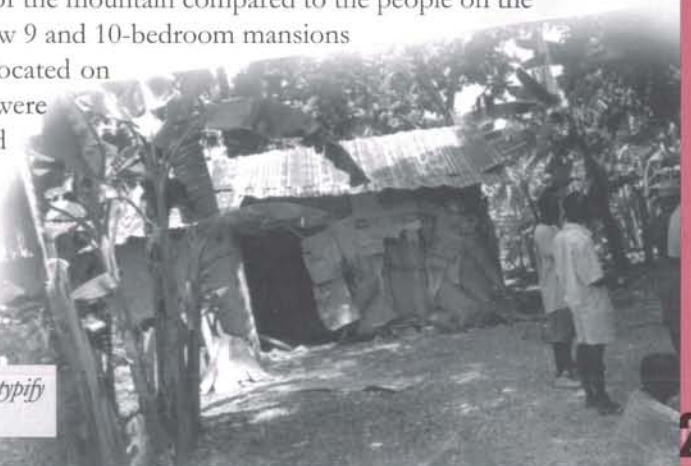
One particularly poignant case symbolized the dire need to coordinate recurring missions to underdeveloped areas in Haiti. "I was doing the triage for a group of villagers, and one young woman came up to me and said she had seen signs of her breasts bleeding," recalled Hamilton. "As if on cue, she pulled out her breast and squeezed her nipple and blood appeared. Being alarmed, but not allowing it to show to the woman, I called over two of our physicians, and they examined her. After our doctors asked all the pertinent questions, she was urged to seek follow-up care at a hospital in Port-au-Prince, which was about a four-hour drive from the village. At that point I thought, 'My God, we really have to do something to help this nation.'"


The abject poverty and ubiquitous filth that defines the everyday existence of most Haitians helps explain the grim reality they face. In the United States, the average white female has a life expectancy of 83 years. In Haiti, the average female lives to age 54, while the Haitian male has a life expectancy of 49 years. "Our poor here in the U.S. are considered middle class in a place like Haiti," stressed Dr. Powell-Cole, who would like to revisit Haiti several times per year to truly impact the region's health care system. In fact, preliminary talks are already underway to coordinate a return trip that would include collaboration with students and faculty from three other HPD colleges - allied health, optometry, and pharmacy.

Before returning home, the humanitarian contingent made one last stop to examine 43 children at a local orphanage situated in the mountains. "When we traveled to our second hotel, the Villa Creole, the difference between how the people lived at the bottom of the mountain compared to the people on the mountain was incredible," said Dr. Powell-Cole. "We saw 9 and 10-bedroom mansions that had air conditioning and running water and were located on huge spreads of land. You would have thought you were back in Miami. The dichotomy between the haves and have nots was so obvious."

The medical mission had a profound impact on all the participants, said Dr. Powell-Cole, who found that her love for the practice of medicine was reaffirmed by the

Ramshackle residences like the one pictured to the right typify the rampant poverty that exists throughout Haiti.





weeklong expedition. "We as health care professionals need trips like this to remind us of what medicine is really about, which is caring for people and not dealing with the HMO's and the PPO's and the paperwork. Sometimes we get lulled into complacency and believe that medications are available everywhere and that running water and proper sanitation are easily accessed. This trip was a stark reminder that we do not have equality across the world, and we need to continue making trips to other countries to remind us of this and make a difference. I came back a very changed person. I love America and appreciate everything we have here. I was reminded of what medicine is really about, which is service - serving people."

That commitment to assist the medically needy was also evidenced by Hamilton's obvious eagerness to participate in Medical Mission 2000 to Haiti. "It was a very enriching experience, and I would encourage all of our HPD students, especially those in the Master of Public Health Program, to get involved in future missions. Each trip will serve as a steppingstone that leads to the ultimate goal, which is to help the people of Haiti become more self-sufficient medically and improve their quality of life."

Medical Mission 2000 Participants

Dr. Sultan Ahmed, NSU-COM Faculty
Christa Ambrose - NSU-COM Student
Jessica Brown - NSU-COM Student
Jean Charles - NSU-COM Student and SNMA President
Donald Dawkins - NSU-COM Student
Laurent Dreyfuss - NSU-COM Student
Dr. Josephn Fan Fan - Community Physician
Allen Fan Fan - Community Advocate
Ilya Fonarov - NSU-COM Student
Immacula Hamilton - NSU-COM Staff/M.P.H. Student
Susan Lee - NSU-COM Student
Heidi Pearson - NSU-COM Student
Dr. Michelle Powell-Cole - NSU-COM Faculty
Dr. Josette Sejour - NSU-COM Resident
Deepa Shah - NSU-COM Student
Tae Yu - NSU-COM Student



HAITI 2000
Student National Medical Association
Nova SE University

AHEC Activities Provide Crucial Connection

Since its inception in 1985, NSU's Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) Program has focused on the development and coordination of programs that extend the academic resources of health professions programs into many rural and underserved communities. Following is a select summary of recent AHEC activities and plans in progress:

- Approximately 120 high school students participated in AHEC's nationally recognized annual Summer Health Career Camps. The students were selected from a pool of over 300 applicants representing 50 schools in AHEC's 19-county service area.

- The Health Education Training Centers (HETC) Statewide Program Office compiled an "Analysis of Minority Health Initiatives" of the four Florida medical schools and their affiliated AHEC and HETC programs. The portfolio includes a review of over 150 statewide projects, ranging from health promotion and disease prevention activities to cultural sensitivity training for health care providers.

- A statewide teleconference referencing the topic "Health Issues Affecting African-Americans" was coordinated that involved over 400 health care providers from over 40 sites located in over 30 Florida counties. The teleconference focused on the following six nationally recognized minority health disparities: immunization, cardiovascular disease, infant mortality, HIV/AIDS, diabetes, and cancer. A similar teleconference focusing on "Health Issues Affecting Hispanics" is currently in the development stage.

- AHEC's Library Without Walls Program, which provides a variety of educational and informational dissemination services to primary care providers in rural and underserved areas, now includes more than 80 sites throughout the 19-county AHEC service area. Over 1,000 informational requests were serviced by this system for providers in remote sites during the past reporting period.

- Partners from the four Florida AHEC programs and the eight affiliated HETC projects will be involved in developing the Renewal Grant Application for the Florida Border HETC Program for the fiscal period of October 2001 through September 2002.

- Development of training programs and educational workshops for health professionals in underserved areas throughout the region continues to be a prime AHEC objective. These programs and workshops will cover a wide variety of primary care and public health areas such as HIV/AIDS, domestic violence, sickle cell, pain management, women's health issues, sexually transmitted diseases, and pesticides poisoning.

Palm Beach D.O. Dispenses On-Air Advice

Each weekday morning, South Florida television viewers have an opportunity to obtain information on a wide range of medical issues, thanks to the popular "Doctor to Doctor" news segment that airs every morning at approximately 6:50 a.m. on Palm Beach County's *WPEC NEWS 12 Daybreak*.



Brad Feuer, D.O.

The informative two-minute daily segment, which is hosted by Brad Feuer, D.O. and Brent Schillinger, M.D. has covered a range of timely topics over the past year. The physicians also discuss recent clinical studies that traditionally receive minimal media coverage. During a recent week, an eclectic array of topics were addressed, including:

- Safety issues with birth control pills
- The link between dioxin and ice cream
- Why seat belts aren't safe for young children
- Exercise and the common cold
- Why teenage cigar smokers set a dangerous trend

"I became involved in this show because I think it can further public education on healthcare topics," said Dr. Feuer, who serves as regional coordinator for NSU-COM's Palm Beach County Regional Academic Training Center. In this role, he provides overall coordination of the college's undergraduate and graduate educational programs residing at Columbia Hospital, Palms West Hospital, and JFK Medical Center.

"We take medical topics and look at them from different points of view," added Dr. Feuer, who also doubles as an attorney in the Boca Raton-based law firm of Buckingham, Doolittle and Burroughs, where he specializes in healthcare law. "We give audiences a much broader range of opinions."

Dr. Feuer joined the NEWS 12 team in July 1999. Prior to that time he was a "Hot Topic" medical expert on WPBF-Channel 25 in West Palm Beach. The Feuer-Schillinger tandem recently earned the Florida Medical Association's "Physician Communicator of the Year Award" for imparting vital medical information on local television stations in the West Palm Beach area.

Dr. Daniel Shaw Develops Medical Informatics CD-ROM

Thanks to the efforts of Daniel Shaw, Ph.D., who chairs the Department of Behavioral Medicine, life just got a little easier for the M-1 students, who are required to attend a five-hour medical informatics course. The course serves as a brief introduction to the emerging specialty of "medical informatics," which utilizes modern computer and other electronic technologies in the management of clinical patient information, diagnosis and decision-making, communication of ideas, dissemination and sharing of medical information, and training of health care workers.



Daniel Shaw, Ph.D.

During the weeks leading up to the first class meeting, Dr. Shaw created an interactive "Course Materials CD-ROM" based on the principles of "programmed instruction." The CD-ROM, which was distributed to each student, allows the users to hone their skills at either the NSU Microlab or in the comfort of their own home - provided they have access to a personal computer. The CD-ROM guides the students through a series of user-friendly tasks that facilitate the successful completion of the course objectives and includes the course syllabus, all reading materials, and self-installing software (i.e. Adobe Acrobat Reader) that is necessary to operate the various components.

Of particular note, the CD-ROM has an original interactive PowerPoint presentation -- authored by Dr. Shaw -- that fully instructs students in the use of the NSU Web mail system. Other tasks include directed offline (no Internet connection necessary) navigation of the NSU-COM Web site with links to important university sites. The disc also contains an entertaining section that creatively demonstrates how computer technology can be used as a tool to enhance clinical skills and knowledge.

CDC Grant Supports Project CHOICES Study



Kenneth Johnson, D.O.

Investigators at Nova Southeastern University have been awarded a three-year clinical research grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to fund the Project CHOICES Efficacy Study.

Over the three-year period, the CDC will allocate \$900,000 to support the evaluation – in a controlled trial – of an intervention designed to prevent alcohol-exposed pregnancies in women whose drinking and birth control practices place them at risk. As with all federal grant programs, funding for subsequent years depends on congressional appropriations and demonstration of satisfactory progress.

The principal investigator is Mark Sobell, Ph.D. of the NSU Center for Psychological Studies. Co-investigators are Kenneth Johnson, D.O., who serves as director of NSU's Women's and Children's Center, Linda Sobell, Ph.D. of the Center for Psychological Studies, and Stephen Bowen, M.D. of the North Broward Hospital District. In addition to NSU, two other grantees are collaborating with the CDC on this research study: the School of Public Health at the University of Texas at Houston and the Medical College of Virginia at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond.

This current CDC endowment serves as continuation funding from an earlier grant, which was used to conduct an epidemiological survey that evaluated the prevalence of risk and helped the investigators develop and field test the intervention to be evaluated during the study's next phase.

The latest CDC grant continues a line of research that has been conducted at NSU over the past three years.

The study focuses on women who are at risk of an alcohol-exposed pregnancy. Women at risk are fertile, are not using contraceptives effectively, and are drinking either more than seven alcoholic beverages per week on average or consuming five or more during one specific period. Research shows that children born to women ingesting at these levels are at risk of alcohol-related neurodevelopmental disorders than can impair cognitive functions such as attention, working memory, and arithmetic ability.

An important consideration is that significant damage can occur to the fetus in the first weeks of conception and prior to the time when a pregnancy test would be positive. The objective must be not to convince at-risk women to reduce or stop their drinking after they become pregnant, but rather to remove the alcohol risk before they become pregnant or to prevent their becoming pregnant if they continue to drink at risk levels. Therefore, a woman has a choice of avoiding an alcohol-exposed pregnancy by reducing her drinking, practicing effective birth control, or both (hence the name Project CHOICES).

The details of the clinical trial are currently being coordinated by the three collaborating institutions and CDC scientists. It will most likely involve a comparison of the targeted intervention with a standard practice control condition. Dr. Johnson will head up the birth control practices component of the intervention at the South Florida site.

Sigma Phi Members Educate High School Students

On August 11, a number of NSU-COM Sigma Sigma Phi Xi Chapter members visited the Miami Edison High School to lead an interactive discussion on osteopathic medicine and health professions opportunities. The appreciative high school students witnessed Osteopathic Principles and Practices (OPP) demonstrations, learned about the history and future direction of osteopathic medicine, and participated in a discussion on the importance of pursuing their dreams.

Following the lecture segment, the undergraduates were paired up with an NSU-COM student physician to learn how to auscultate the lungs and heart, take blood pressure, elicit reflexes, and practice basic OPP techniques. The event proved to be a great success, especially since many of the Miami Edison students voiced their enthusiasm about pursuing a future in the health professions arena.

Sigma Sigma Phi is a national honorary osteopathic service fraternity that was established in 1921 in Kirksville, Missouri, by seven students from the American School of Osteopathic Medicine. The goal of the NSU-COM Xi Chapter is to promote better community understanding of OPP as well as provide community service opportunities for NSU-COM student physicians. Activities like the Miami Edison High School presentation are tied in with the fraternity's Osteopathic Awareness: Educating Students Regionally/Locally (OA ESR_L) program.

NSU-COM Sigma Sigma Phi members in attendance were Joe Maides, Chirag Shah, M-2 class president, Joanna Greenblatt, Troy Sterk, and Jeff Lebensburger, M-2 class treasurer. Other participants included John Tole and James Treadwell, who serves as vice president of NSU-COM's Student Government Association.



NSU-COM Sigma Sigma Phi members prepare to make their presentation to the Miami Edison High School students.

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